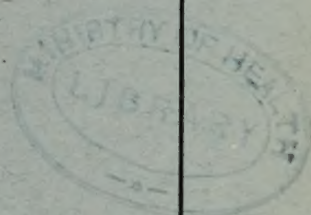


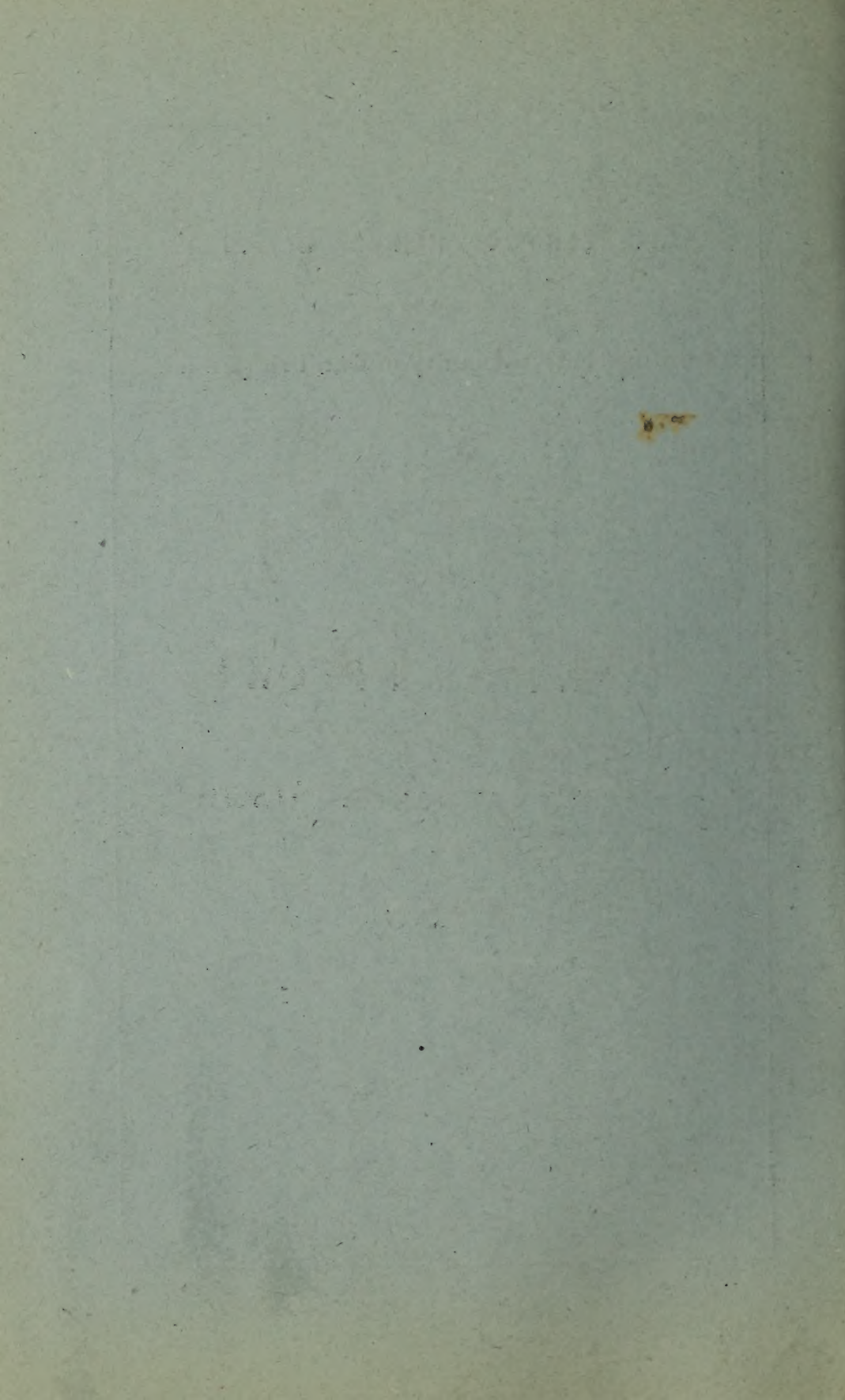
HEALTH
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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
in the
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT
of
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for
1950





CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
HOBSON STREET,
CAMBRIDGE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit an Annual Report for the year 1950. In this report I have recorded the vital statistics for the year. Owing to the fact that I only took up my appointment on July 23rd, 1951, the remainder of the report concerning the sanitary conditions of the District has been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1951.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

Medical Officer of Health:—

Dr. A. Morgan retired on the 30th September, 1950 and the vacancy so created was not filled by the end of the year.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:—

E. B. NEWMAN, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors:—

N. D. ADDISON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

E. V. BEEBY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water and food-stuffs are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious diseases and samples of milk are sent to the Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge.

HOSPITALS:—

Cases of infectious diseases are treated at Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	53
Estimated mid-year Home Population	38,060
Rateable value	£146,257
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£570
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books	11,271

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, and jam making.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

Live Births:—

			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	571	284	287
Illegitimate	...	...	30	14	16
Totals	...	...	601	298	303

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	15.8
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	15.8

Still Births :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	10	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	10	3	7
Rate per thousand total (Live and Still Births)	—	—	16.36

Deaths :—

	Total	Male	Female
Death rate per thousand estimated population	415	223	192
Death rate per thousand (England and Wales)	—	—	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
(b) Other Maternal Causes	Nil
Rate per thousand (Live and Still Births)	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	12	6	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	12	6	6

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per thousand Live Births	19.9
Infants under four weeks of age per thousand Live Births	14.9
Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births	21.0
Illegitimate Infants per thousand Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	52
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	6
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Birth and Death rates for the last six years as compared with the year under review :—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Birth rate	19.4	18.2	19.2	18.9	17.2	15.2	15.8
Death rate	11.9	13.0	11.4	13.9	9.8	12.3	10.9

Classification of Deaths under Age Groups

Ages	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	6	6	12
1 and under 2	2	2	4
2 " " 5	1	1	2
5 " " 15	—	—	—
15 " " 25	3	—	3
25 " " 35	3	6	9
35 " " 45	7	1	8

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS—*continued*

Ages					Male	Female	Total
45	"	"	55	...	11	16	27
55	"	"	65	...	22	14	36
65	"	"	75	...	61	35	96
75 and over				...	107	111	218
Totals					223	192	415

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases Under Age Groups

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages—Years												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-			
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	57	—	1	1	5	3	34	11	1	1	—	—	—	33	—	—
Measles	76	3	4	7	13	12	31	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	81	5	15	8	12	8	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	15	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	4	5	2	—	5
Dysentery	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	238	9	20	16	30	23	101	15	1	3	3	8	9	40	—	5

The total number of notifications (238) is very much lower than in 1949 (676) mainly due to the decrease in the number of cases of measles. The three cases of dysentery occurred in a large mental hospital in the area. It is satisfactory to note that there were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year, and no deaths from measles or whooping cough. The case of Poliomyelitis was an isolated one.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 34	8	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 — 44	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—
45 — 54	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 64	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & over	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	19	15	2	2	5	2	1	—

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The activities of the department during the year have been extremely varied and an ever increasing proportion of the Inspectors' time is taken up with surveys to secure the information in connection with water supplies and sewerage. Whilst this is of material assistance to other departments it tends to reduce the amount of time which can be allocated to routine sanitary inspection of the area. With the present scarcity of materials, controls and licensing procedure, the carrying out of works becomes more difficult and complicated. Nevertheless, the work of the department has again shown good progress. Public Cleansing has reached the stage when every village enjoys a service. The task of supplying the whole area with piped water supplies is practically completed. Substantial progress has been made with the sewerage of the semi-urban parishes adjoining Cambridge and schemes have been prepared, or are in course of preparation, for several other large villages. Food hygiene has not been neglected and the results of the past few years' work is now becoming apparent. Housing still remains the major problem and continues to overshadow much of the department's work. The scarcity of alternative accommodation limits action under the Housing Acts except in really bad cases. For the same reason many old properties are being reconditioned which otherwise would have been demolished. There seems little likelihood, however, of any substantial improvement of sub-standard accommodation at the present time.

Bearing in mind the large area to be covered (174 square miles) and the variety of the work undertaken by the department the following reflects credit on the small staff concerned.

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1950:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Total Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	5,265
Miscellaneous Visits re complaints, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	459
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1,003
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	746
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	262
Visits re Verminous Persons or Property	...	...	...	...	...	33
Public Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	516
Shop Acts	...	...	...	...	...	161
River Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	69
Schools Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	47
Burial Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	5
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	48

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	86
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	99
Preserved Food Premises:—						
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	69
(2) Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	21

Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	140
Cafes and Restaurants	187
Other Food Premises	95
Bake-houses	93
Retail Dairies	72
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	131

HOUSING

Housing Inspections (P.H.A., 1936)	159
Reinspections	124
Housing Inspections (Housing Acts)	42
Reinspections	63
Movable Dwellings	196

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and Enquiries	100
Disinfections	81

HOUSING :—

Post-war Housing Progress up to 31st March, 1951 :—

1. Number of dwellings completed including :—

Prefab bungalows	50
Bungalows	4
Flats	7
Swedish houses and Airey houses	96
Hut conversions	219
Permanent houses	312
Total	688

2. Permanent houses in course of erection or contracts being drawn up

169

3. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (ten-year) in hand

Nil

4. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (five-year) in hand

6

Number of houses built or in course of erection by private enterprise

Permanent 61

Temporary 3

Prefabs 14

Conversions (units) 3

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year :—

Houses inspected	201
Reinspections made	380
Demolition orders made	2
Houses demolished	8
Undertakings (Section 11) accepted	5
Undertakings (Section 11) cancelled	Nil
Houses made fit	64

PARISH ALLOCATION
(Under contract or work commenced at 31.3.51)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temporary Accommodation	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	B'ngalows and Flats	Houses	B'ngalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs, etc.	Huts and Prefabs, etc.
Barton	6	—	—	—	—	—
Bourn	—	—	—	—	110	104
Boxworth	4	—	—	—	—	—
Caxton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Comberton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	—	22	22
Cottenham	34	4	22	4	—	—
Croxton	8	—	—	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	4	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	12	—	12	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	16	—	10	10
Girton	55	—	37	—	—	—
Grantchester	4	—	4	—	—	—
Graveley	8	—	—	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	20	—	—	—	—	—
Haslingfield	6	4	6	4	—	—
Histon	22	—	22	—	—	—
Impington	22	—	22	—	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	8	—	7	—	—	—
Lolworth	4	—	—	—	—	—
Longstanton	14	—	6	—	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	16	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	12	—	4	—	10	10
Over	8	—	8	—	—	—
Great Shelford	12	—	12	—	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	8	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	4	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	—	—	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	—	26	—	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	8	—	8	—	—	—
Waterbeach	17	—	17	—	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Willingham	41	3	5	3	—	—
Totals	574	14	408	11	275	275

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—*

Houses demolished	405
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	14
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Section 11) have been accepted	70

Houses (or parts) closed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses made fit by formal action	...	...	...	...	...	26
Houses made fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	...	610

**Note.—These figures are totals up to 31.3.51.*

Whilst progress continues to be made with the erection of new houses the effect on the general housing problem is relatively small, and at 31st March, 1951, there were still 1,705 applicants on the Council's Housing List—this is in spite of the fact that the Council has provided approximately 2,200 separate dwellings (all categories) since 1919. Notwithstanding constant revisions and checking of the Council's list the following cases are still awaiting accommodation:—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses) (including 125 agricultural cases)	...	...	...	...	...	915
Families in separate dwellings but under notice, Court Orders, and being in unfit accommodation (including 220 agricultural cases)	...	...	...	...	...	790

In addition, the problem remains of the families living in sub-standard accommodation and progress in this field is almost entirely related to the speed with which new accommodation can be made available. The heavily increased cost of repairs and maintenance of old property together with the retention of the Rent Restrictions Acts, limiting the owners to low rents does not render normal action under the Housing Acts easy. Even the making of Demolition Orders does not necessarily guarantee alternative accommodation for the tenants within a reasonable time. In these circumstances the work of the department is largely confined to securing essential repairs mostly under the provisions of the Public Health Act, and it is difficult to determine any constructive policy from a long-term point of view. Pending changes in existing legislation it would appear that the Council may be advised to purchase sub-standard accommodation and carry out sufficient repair work to ensure a life of say ten years until there is some amelioration of the existing housing problem. It is unfortunate that the Housing Act, 1949, makes no provision for assistance in carrying out repairs ; its main assistance is toward the improvement of property as opposed to the maintenance of property.

It has recently been determined that the true economic rent of an average post-war three-bedroomed house after allowing for Exchequer and Rate Fund contributions is 21/11 plus 5/6 rates, and the rent usually charged is 20/- plus 5/6 rates. Many necessitous cases are unable to afford the rent of new accommodation despite the fact that the rent asked is less than the true economic rent. A solution to this problem will have to be found in the near future and may, with reluctance, turn upon the standard of accommodation built. When new housing is being planned it should be related to the needs of the community as previously ascertained and should include suitable accommodation for all groups, particularly the aged for whom small bungalows are often advisable.

REQUISITIONING—

At the 31st March, 1951, 45 properties were retained by the Council on Requisitioning Orders providing accommodation for 47 family units.

TEMPORARY HUTMENTS—

The Council has continued to accept and convert surplus military and R.A.F hutments and, as will be seen from the housing figures, 219 huts have been completed and a further 6 are in hand. This practice has undoubtedly helped to relieve the pressure on the Housing Committee and has enabled the really urgent cases to be dealt with. The continued occupation of these buildings, which were never designed for permanent habitation, is a matter of real concern to the department and their condition is becoming progressively worse. Apart from the site at Quy where the huts were well adapted on a 10 year basis, the remainder, consisting of Nissen and Laing type huts, are in the main unfit for winter occupation by reason of inadequate services and heating and serious internal condensation. Permitted expenditure on them is strictly limited and unless these buildings are gradually eliminated a serious problem will arise in the very near future.

WATER SUPPLY :—

In addition to the works set out in the Report for 1950, the Western Area Scheme has been completed and the parishes of Harston, Haslingfield, Dry Drayton, Childerley (part), and Hardwick are now supplied. Mains extensions are in progress at Papley Grove, Eltisley, Twentypence Road, Cottenham, and Earith Bridge, Willingham. With the exception of Graveley, Papworth St. Agnes, and Newton, where contracts are due to commence this year, it is pleasing to report the whole district is now supplied with mains water. It is worthy of note that the Council now owns over 100 miles of mains in the area. In conjunction with the Agricultural Committee schemes are being prepared for supplying certain fen areas, particularly North Fen and Smithy Fen, Cottenham.

Details of the parishes remaining to be supplied are as follows :—

Parish	Estimated Population (1948)	Estimated Requirements G.P.D. (all Purposes)	Source of Supply	Progress with Scheme
Graveley Papworth St. Agnes	201 102	5,922 3,331	Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	Scheme approved Commencing August, 1951
Newton	226	5,278	Harston	Scheme approved Commencing September, 1951

Considerable improvement has been effected with regard to connections to the mains and the Council has agreed to the removal of all public

WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.51

Parishes	Population Estimated 1948	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 1951	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.51	Remarks
Barton	509	C.R.D.C.	183	105	57%	Scheme in hand
Bourn	732	C.R.D.C.	358	291	82%	
Boxworth	195	C.R.D.C.	61	46	75%	
Caldecote	371	C.R.D.C.	136	112	82%	
Caxton	352	C.R.D.C.	101	77	76%	
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	—	—	Mains just laid
Comberton	571	C.R.D.C.	193	126	65%	
Conington	117	C.R.D.C.	44	38	86%	
Coton	346	C.W.W.	169	151	89%	
Cottenham	2,603	C.R.D.C.	871	825	95%	
Croxton	182	C.R.D.C.	56	43	77%	Mains just laid
Dry Drayton	398	C.R.D.C.	124	9	8%	
Elsworth	454	C.R.D.C.	160	122	76%	
Eltisley	300	C.R.D.C.	91	72	79%	
Fen Ditton	602	C.W.W.	195	125	64%	
Fen Drayton	414	C.R.D.C.	135	58	43%	P.S.P. only
Fulbourn	2,249	C.W.W.	456	335	73%	
Girton	2,092	C.W.W.	588	562	96%	
Grantchester	494	C.W.W.	166	160	96%	
Graveley	201	C.R.D.C.	62	23	37%	
Hardwick	482	C.R.D.C.	156	89	57%	Mains just laid
Harlton	263	C.R.D.C.	83	25	30%	
Harston	921	C.R.D.C.	294	265	90%	
Haslingfield	680	C.R.D.C.	217	74	34%	
Hauxton	358	C.R.D.C.	119	96	81%	
Histon	2,501	C.W.W.	842	1,177	93%	Mains just laid
Horningsea	334	C.R.D.C.	109	51	47%	
Impington	1,275	C.W.W.	430	(with Histon)	93%	
Knapwell	93	C.R.D.C.	37	23	62%	
Landbeach	509	C.R.D.C.	195	116	59%	
Lolworth	120	C.R.D.C.	33	6	19%	Scheme in hand
Longstanton A.S.	352	C.R.D.C.	123	88	72%	
Longstanton S.M.	136	C.R.D.C.	46	8	17%	
Madingley	188	C.W.W.	61	54	89%	
Milton	643	C.W.W.	218	170	78%	
Newton	266	C.R.D.C.	88	—	—	Scheme in hand
Oakington	513	C.R.D.C.	162	139	86%	
Over	995	C.R.D.C.	328	256	78%	
Papworth Everard	1,517	C.R.D.C.	231	213	92%	
Papworth S. Ag.	102	C.R.D.C.	29	—	—	
Rampton	222	C.R.D.C.	73	68	93%	Scheme in hand
Great Shelford	2,309	C.W.W.	765	732	96%	
Little Shelford	541	C.W.W.	179	134	75%	
Stapleford	809	C.W.W.	258	217	84%	
Stow-cum-Quay	500	C.R.D.C.	160	133	83%	
Swavesey	905	C.R.D.C.	304	277	91%	Scheme in hand
Teversham	451	C.W.W.	149	101	68%	
Toft	263	C.R.D.C.	83	59	71%	
Waterbeach	1,523	C.R.D.C.	491	250	51%	
Westwick	43	C.R.D.C.	14	4	29%	
Great Wilbraham	420	C.W.W.	144	102	71%	Scheme in hand
Little Wilbraham	287	C.R.D.C.	103	67	65%	
Willingham	1,785	W.W.W.	591	535	90%	
	35,510		11,271	8,809	78%	

C.R.D.C.: Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W.: Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

W.W.W.: Private Company (Willingham Water Company).

standpipes after six months' notice. Maintenance of public pumps will also be discontinued. Determined efforts are continuing to secure the maximum number of connections to the mains although it has not been found possible to implement the provisions of Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945 (taking water into houses) in many of the lower-rated rural properties—usually owing to excessive cost and absence of drainage. The Engineers' department continues to operate a direct labour scheme for new installations within the limits imposed by the increased amount of maintenance work involved.

With the provision of mains supplies throughout the area, the necessity for transporting water is gradually being eliminated. During the year the following amounts were carted by the Council's tanker:—

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY :—

During the year it was necessary to cart water as follows :

Parish	Approx. Gallons per week	Duration
Caldecote	1,500	6 months only (new mains available)
Dry Drayton	4,000	All year (new mains now available)
Papworth St. Agnes	500	All year (new scheme in hand)
Hardwick	5,000	6 months only (new mains available)
Newton	1,000	All year (new scheme in hand)

By the end of 1951 it should not be necessary to transport water except in the few isolated cases of individual properties with no possibility of an alternative supply.

A new bore has been sunk by the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board at Bourn to supplement the existing supply and this will be in operation shortly. A scheme is also under consideration for taking a bulk supply into the Joint Board system from an R.A.F. bore at Lordsbridge, Harlton.

During the year under review no difficulty was experienced in supplying the requirements of the area although pressures, particularly in the Cottenham and Longstanton areas, could be improved.

CHLORINATION—

With the exception of the works serving single parishes (Harston and Willingham) all public supplies are chlorinated. The routine samples reveal excellent bacteriological results from all sources.

SAMPLING—

All public supplies are sampled monthly for bacteriological examination and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly. Apart from the high hardness figures associated with the Willingham, Over, and Joint Board supplies the results have been consistently satisfactory. A scheme for softening the Joint Board's supply has been deferred by the Ministry of Health.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	good	good	good	good	good
Reaction (pH value)	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.9	7.0
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.1	3.75	8.6	2.3	6.75
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0014	0.0008	0.0014	0.0414	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0008	0.0008	0.0006	0.0004	0.0252
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0311	0.0332	0.0285	0.0196	0.2110
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.55	0.65	absent	absent	0.10
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
No. of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Maximum Hardness during year (grains per gall.)	8.4	27.2	32.45	3.72	33.75
Minimum ditto	7.8	26.6	25.5	3.46	31.6

Total Number of samples taken	...	...	112
Samples from Public supplies	...	...	98
Samples from private wells, etc.	...	...	14
Samples reported safe for drinking	...	...	105
Samples reported unsafe for drinking	...	...	7
Water supplies to Houses improved as a result of action by the Department (excluding mains extensions)			16

PUBLIC CLEANSING :—

The department is responsible for public cleansing in the area and a scheme is in operation whereby refuse is collected by direct labour throughout the district. The semi-urban parishes adjoining Cambridge are cleared weekly and five other parishes at fortnightly intervals. The remaining forty-one parishes are cleared monthly. The present schedule of collections is as follows:—

COLLECTIONS, 1950

House Refuse			
Weekly	Hses.	Fortnightly	Hses.
Girton	588	Landbeach	195
Harston	294	Milton	218
Hauxton	119	Newton	88
Histon	842	Waterbeach	491
Impington	430	Fen Ditton	95
Gt. Shelford	765		
Lt. Shelford	179		
Stapleford	258		
8 parishes	3,475	5 parishes	1,087

COLLECTIONS—*continued*

Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.
Barton	183	Fen Drayton	135	Over	328
Bourn	358	Fulbourn	456	Papworth Everard	231
Boxworth	61	Grantchester	166	Papworth St. Ag.	29
Caldecote	136	Graveley	62	Rampron	73
Caxton	101	Hardwick	156	Stow-cum-Quy	160
Childerley	7	Harlton	83	Swavesey	304
Comberton	193	Haslingfield	217	Teversham	149
Conington	44	Horningsea	109	Toft	83
Coton	169	Knapwell	37	Westwick	14
Cottenham	871	Lolworth	33	Gt. Wilbraham	144
Croxton	56	Longstanton A.S.	123	Lt. Wilbraham	103
Dry Drayton	124	Longstanton S.M.	46	Willingham	591
Elsworth	160	Madingley	61		
Eltisley	91	Oakington	162		
41 Parishes 6,709 houses					

This department also undertakes the collection of nightsoil as follows :—

Collection of Night Soil

Weekly	Houses
Waterbeach	350
Grantchester (part)	50
2 parishes	400 houses

The stage has been reached when every one of the 53 parishes enjoys a service not less frequently than once per month, but with the large area to be covered, tipping difficulties, and long uneconomical hauls little further improvement can be contemplated without very substantial increase in cost. The fleet consists of three Karrier Bantam (7 cu. yd.) and one 12 cu. yd. Karrier CK3 vehicle and, as will be seen from the summary, the vehicles have travelled over 40,000 miles and collected and disposed of nearly 5,000 tons of refuse in the year. A new 15 cu. yd. moving-floor Karrier vehicle is on order and delivery is expected in April, 1951. The acquisition of this vehicle has been necessary owing to the Histon tip being filled and the necessity for transporting refuse a much greater distance.

The increasing numbers of new houses together with the inclusion of hutted camps and R.A.F. contracts for two permanent aerodromes has extended the present resources of the department to the utmost, particularly from an administrative point of view. However, the service has been well maintained during the year and no serious difficulties have arisen. The provision of a proper depot (to be commenced in 1951) will do much to relieve the present handicap arising from improvised garages and maintenance facilities.

In order to encourage the use of proper sanitary dustbins a supply of B.S.S. bins is held for resale to the public at cost price.

DISPOSAL—

There are, perhaps, few areas in the country where disposal is so difficult. The district is completely flat and the normal subsoil water level is seldom more than 3 to 4 feet from the surface. Very few sites suitable for disposal can be found and these are usually shallow gravel workings, with a number of drawbacks. At the present time five tips are in use—Cottenham, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn, and Fen Drayton—and controlled tipping is practised. During the year the Histon tip (forming the main tip for the semi-urban parishes to the north of Cambridge), was filled and the only suitable alternative which could be found was at Twentypence Road, Cottenham, involving a further 12 miles haul per load. Covering material is almost non-existent and usually has to be purchased and transported from some distance. The covering and finishing off of the Histon tip will be facilitated by the free use of spoil from the sewerage contracts in progress in the vicinity. The use of mechanical equipment is becoming an absolute necessity and from time to time a bulldozer is hired—although the use of five scattered tips mitigates against the full time use of soil moving equipment. In course of time it is hoped that, in conjunction with the Engineers' department, sufficient work will be available to justify the purchase of at least a small bulldozer.

The tips are maintained in fairly good condition having regard to the difficulties outlined above and are regularly surveyed and treated for rodent destruction.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING—

The department now operates two Karrier Yorkshire 700-gallon cesspool emptiers for the casual clearance of cesspools for which a nominal charge is made. The vehicles are also employed on the desludging of small sewage disposal plants on housing sites and the cleansing of village catchpits. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night-soil and approximately 350 buckets are cleared weekly in the parish of Waterbeach. The vehicles have been heavily engaged throughout the year and the service is in great demand. The amount of work involved on housing sites is increasing rapidly and must eventually lead to a reduction in the service offered to the public. Disposal of cesspool contents constitutes the principal problem as suitable disposal points are usually seasonal only and long uneconomical hauls are often involved. Wherever possible sewage disposal plants are used, with the consent of the Engineer, although this privilege is confined to one or two larger plants.

COLLECTION OF SALVAGE—

Since June, 1949, when the market for waste paper collapsed overnight, collections have been suspended. The demand is again apparent, however, and there is every likelihood of a guaranteed price on a long term contract once more. Collections will, therefore, be introduced in March,

1951, and it is hoped to return rapidly to the production of a target figure of at least 100 tons per annum. There is, however, a real danger that the high prices now offered will result in less paper being secured by local authorities owing to its collection by other bodies and persons.

Summary of Public Cleansing Work Carried Out during the year ending 31st March, 1951

HOUSE REFUSE—

Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	...	...	...	...	4,833 tons
Total mileage travelled (4 vehicles)	...	...	...	...	41,909 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile	...	...	...	...	10.7 pence
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	...	...	...	...	£1/2/3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per ton
Estimated number of clearances	...	...	...	...	284,665 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...	...	...	4.8 pence
Average mileage per ton	...	...	...	...	8.7 miles
Average miles per gallon (4 vehicles)	...	...	...	...	10.04 miles
Estimated cost per 1,000 dwellings (collection and disposal) (11,000)	...	...	...	...	£519/2/1
Estimated cost per 1,000 population (38,000)	...	...	...	...	£150/5/7

NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION—

Total number of bucket clearances	...	...	...	...	17,153
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...	...	...	4.4 pence
Contract price per bucket clearance	...	...	...	...	6 pence

CESSPOOL EMPTYING—

Actual mileage travelled	...	...	...	...	22,874 miles
Estimated cost per mile	...	...	...	...	15.38 pence
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...	...	...	£2/19/4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Estimated number of loads disposed of	...	...	...	...	1,479 loads
Estimated cost per load (collection and disposal)	...	...	...	...	£1/18/7 $\frac{1}{2}$

As far as refuse collection is concerned, the year has been one of constantly increasing costs and, in common with most services, it has been necessary to exercise the utmost economy, and at the same time maintain the service to the public at a reasonable level. The success of our efforts may be judged from the above figures. An increase of some £600 is apparent on two items (petrol and wages), and yet the cost per ton for collection and disposal shows a reduction from 24/2d. to 22/3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. which may be said to be quite satisfactory. The cost of vehicles per mile shows only a slight increase (10.16d. to 10.7d.) and the cost per clearance similarly (4.3d. to 4.8d.). These figures are undoubtedly due to (1) the increased work carried out by the vehicles, and (2) the institution of a system whereby all repairs and maintenance are carried out by our own full time fitter. But for this, the cost of the vehicles would have been very considerably higher, having regard to their increasing age.

Considering the fact that collections are now made from all 53 villages and the size of the district, involving long hauls to the tips, these figures compare favourably with those for similar districts.

In offering the cesspool emptying service to the public it was never contemplated that the scheme would show a profit, or indeed, would be completely self-supporting. The above figures are, however, disappointing and having regard to the mounting cost of labour and materials amply justifies a substantial increase in the Council's charges. The necessity for this has been apparent for a long time, but the increase has been deferred as long as possible in order to pass on to the public the maximum benefit from this essential service. The net deficiency on the year's working was £1,589/13/2 (2 vehicles) and the cost per clearance has risen from 42/10d. to 59/4½d. and the cost per load from 29/3d. to 38/7½d. A variety of factors have contributed to these increases:—

1. Both vehicles have been working full time and full wages have been charged to the account (nearly £500 increase).
2. Nearly £400 increase in running costs mainly due to increase in price of petrol and tyres.
3. Disposal difficulties involving long and uneconomical hauls to suitable disposal points.

The revised scale of charges operating from 1st April, 1951, will no doubt do much to offset the deficiency, but it is important to avoid making the cost of the service prohibitive, especially to the lower income groups, and some deficiency is inevitable if the service is to be used to good effect.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:—

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area which are open to the public. Much bathing, however, takes place in the River Cam, above and below Cambridge, and some concern is felt in this connection having regard to the discharge of chemical trade wastes in the Hauxton and Sawston area. The establishment of premises adjacent to the river at Hauxton for the manufacture of insecticides and plant-spraying chemicals has resulted in great difficulty being experienced in the disposal of the chemical wastes without detriment to the river. Considerable discoloration has taken place, and in May and July serious pollution occurred resulting in proceedings being taken against the firm by the Ouse and Cam Fishery Board. Extensive plant has since been installed for the treatment of all wastes and contaminated surface water; although still of an experimental character it has done much to remove the potential risk of pollution. The condition of the river is kept under observation and samples are submitted for analysis from time to time. Since July there has been a gradual improvement which, it is anticipated, will continue. The effluent from the City's sewage disposal works also discharges in the River Cam below Cambridge. As a result of additional sewerage work, both inside and outside the City, the plant is overloaded and preparations are in hand for substantial alteration and improvement at the disposal works.

Since the River Cam forms one of the natural beauties of Cambridge it is essential that every effort should be made to restrict the discharge of wastes and effluents in order that the existing pleasant amenities may be continued. The formation of the new River Board will no doubt facilitate control in this respect.

Inspections recorded re river pollution	69
Samples of river water taken for analysis	12

SHOPS ACTS:—

There are 304 shops of various categories on the register the majority being small premises in conjunction with private dwellings. In general, very few shops in the area employ large staffs and the majority are small family concerns where the Acts have very limited application. Apart from the routine visits to food premises reported elsewhere the following inspections were made and improvements effected:—

Inspections under the Shops Acts	161
Sanitary accommodation to shops improved	1
New sanitary accommodation provided	5
New or improved drainage	2
New or improved washing facilities	3
Mains water laid on	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:—

Being an administrative centre for many Regional Government departments and a University City, Cambridge has a large “floating” population of transferred civil servants, married students, and labour imported into the area. These families seldom have any claim or priority for housing purposes and, indeed, seldom stay long enough in one district to be admitted on the Housing List. The cost of purchasing a house (if one can be found) is prohibitive and in consequence many families are resorting to caravans for semi-permanent occupation. Although there still remains a good deal of prejudice to this form of dwelling it is often preferable to other forms of temporary accommodation.

Unfortunately the provision of adequate sites has not kept pace with the demand and there is a desperate need for additional sites, particularly in those areas within easy reach of Cambridge. The needs of the residential or static caravan dweller are not being met in this area and the time is approaching when local authorities should consider the provision of sites themselves, possibly on surplus housing sites, in order to assist this now considerable section of the population who are endeavouring to help themselves. The increasing control exercised by the Planning Authority renders it difficult to secure acceptable sites and a more liberal approach to this problem would be welcomed, pending the solution to the housing problem.

There has been the usual seasonal influx of caravan dwellers for fruit picking and seasonal agricultural work, but their stay is of short duration and no formal action was necessary during the year.

Number of licences issued for sites	...	...	...	10
Maximum number of vehicles involved	...	...	...	56
Number of licences issued for single caravans	...	...	...	90
Number of licences refused	...	...	...	1
Total number of visits paid in connection with moveable dwellings	...	...	...	196
Improvements to sites—fencing, making-up road, etc.	...	...	...	1

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES:—

Very little action has been necessary during the year with regard to verminous persons or premises. This may be due in some measure to the increasing availability of effective commercial preparations and insecticides.

Visits and enquiries re verminous persons and/or premises	33
Premises disinfested	17

Arrangements have been made for the fumigation of articles, not capable of treatment on the spot, at the County Hospital, but, so far, it has not been possible to secure facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons since the National Health Act came into force.

CARE OF THE AGED—

Although active steps are being taken by the County Authorities to meet the urgent need for more residential accommodation for old people, some time must elapse before this becomes available. In the majority of cases, the need is for accommodation where old people can obtain sympathetic care and attention together with a measure of independence rather than institutional treatment. The Old People's Welfare Association and Home Help Service have given increasing assistance in this connection. The Council, as Housing Authority, is also giving greater attention to the provision of bungalows for old people.

It has not been necessary to effect the compulsory removal of any persons under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, which has been found a somewhat difficult and unsympathetic course. Mostly removal has been effected voluntarily with the co-operation of the local medical practitioners.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (*Section 50*):—

It was necessary to effect the burial of one person under this section since no other arrangements were possible.

RODENT DESTRUCTION:—

With the introduction of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the responsibility for rodent destruction in the area reverted to the local authority. The Council has engaged a full time Pests Officer, together with one operator, and ample work has been available. In addition to the treatment of all Council's property, refuse tips, etc., the area is surveyed and treatment given where necessary. A free service is given to all residential property and commercial properties are treated on a recovery basis.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FROM 31.3.50 TO 31.12.50

Type of Property	No. of Properties Inspected	Inspections Made	Notices Served	Treatment Carried Out				Block Treatment of Properties, Sec. 6 (1)		
				By Arrangement with Occupier		Under Sec. 5 (1)		No. of Blocks	Surface	Sewers
				Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice		Separate Occupiers	Manholes Treated
Local Authorities' Property	20	60	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses	1,520	1,790	—	839	21	—	—	3	170	—
Business Premises	132	201	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property	3	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1,675	2,058	—	988	21	—	—	3	170	—

The Agricultural Committee continues to service all agricultural, land and good liaison exists with that Authority. The new Act has effected considerable improvement from an administrative point of view since the local authority is now responsible for enforcement on all land in its area. The present service is much appreciated by the public and is proving a great benefit generally.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:—

Visits in connection with drainage	...	...	...	1,003
House drains—new and repaired	...	...	...	125
Closet accommodation—new and repaired	...	...	...	92

The department is responsible for the inspection and testing of all new drainage and drainage repairs and alterations to existing properties. As will be seen from the above figures, this work has occupied a considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time.

The Council's scheme for sewerage the semi-urban parishes of Histon, Impington, Girton, Great and Little Shelford, and Stapleford commenced in May, 1949, and the work was divided into 5 contracts at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health. Contracts 1 and 2 (parts of Girton and Great Shelford) are largely complete and good progress is being made on Contracts 3 and 4 (Histon and Girton). Contract 5 will be out to tender shortly. Some delay in reaching agreement with Cambridge Corporation regarding the reception and treatment of the sewage has prevented the final acceptance of and connection to, the new sewers, but it is hoped that connections will be possible shortly.

Work has also been commenced on the sewerage of Milton parish and schemes are prepared for the parishes of Cottenham, Fulbourn, and Waterbeach, and the approval of the Ministry of Health is awaited. The Council is being asked to give priority to the sewerage of Fulbourn parish in order to safeguard the wells of the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company. Subject to agreement being reached with the Company regarding the financial aspect, this scheme is likely to be proceeded with in the near future.

With the provision of a mains water supply throughout the area almost complete, the problem of drainage becomes intensified. Having regard to the very flat nature of the district, the heavy clay subsoil, and the high water table the provision of adequate drainage, particularly to individual properties, is often extremely difficult, if not impossible, especially where modern dwellings are involved. This is only too apparent in connection with the Council's housing programme. The provision of small numbers of houses in each parish immediately raises the problem of drainage, and the policy of securing and developing larger sites where adequate sewage disposal facilities can be installed economically has much to commend it. This policy has been adopted for the following housing sites where disposal schemes are being prepared or have been completed:—

Bourn	(77 houses)	Longstanton	(50 houses)
Caxton	(28 houses)	Rampton	(11 houses)
Cottenham	(50 houses)	Over	(22 houses)
Coton	(53 houses)	Oakington	(18 houses)
Fen Ditton	(20 houses)	Milton	(28 houses)
Girton	(101 houses)	Great Shelford	(30 houses)
Harston	(70 houses)	Swavesey	(32 houses)
Horningsea	(26 houses)	Teversham	(55 houses)
Haslingfield	(46 houses)	Waterbeach	(30 houses)
Impington	(10 houses)	Willingham	(54 houses)
Landbeach	(15 houses)		

(A total of 829 existing and proposed dwellings).

Substantial improvement is also being effected in the sanitary arrangements and drainage of private dwellings. Many owners, particularly owner/occupiers are taking the opportunity to modernize their houses and this work is only limited by the licensing position.

SCHOOLS

Improvement is still badly needed to many of the village schools where the sanitary arrangements are often primitive. The Education Act, 1944 will ultimately secure the elimination of the worst features but the remedy is not a speedy one. It is in the early years that sound hygienic habits should be inculcated amongst children, and the installation of improved sanitary accommodation and fittings is essential to this end. The extension of the school meals service, invaluable as it is, brings in its train difficulties peculiar to it, e.g. the provision of adequate toilet, washing facilities, and washing up facilities.

Inspection of Schools	47
Improved or new sanitary accommodation provided ...	1
New or improved drainage	5
Water laid on	2
Washing facilities improved	2
Redecoration—electric light installed, etc.	2
Playgrounds resurfaced, etc.	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK SUPPLY

Over a year has elapsed since the coming into force of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and the consequent transfer of the supervision of milk production from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is to be regretted that production has been divorced from the obvious public health aspect but on the whole the new administration appears to have worked well having regard to the limited staff available to replace the sanitary officers in the County. The present system is mainly open to criticism on the score that attention is focussed on the designated producers and insufficient control is being exercised over the non-designated ones. It is amongst this latter category that most unsatisfactory methods are to be found and the control of milk quality is largely in the hands of the purchasers.

The new legislation, however, enables the public health department to assume, what is perhaps its rightful role, the protection of the public by concentrating more on the condition of the final product as delivered to the consumer. It is to this end that the energies of the department have been devoted during the year as evidenced by the subsequent paragraph dealing with milk sampling.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee) indicate the position in the area at 31st December, 1950 :—

Number of Wholesale Producers in the area	125
Number of Producer Retailers	74
Number of Retail Purveyors	15

Included in the above figures are 68 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 27 accredited producers (34 per cent and 13 per cent respectively). Of the 199 registered producers in the area 43 per cent now produce designated milk and approximately 72 herds (36 per cent) are “attested.”

The work of the department in connection with the distribution of milk under the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, etc., may be summarised as follows:—

Number of distributors registered with premises in the area	12
Number of premises outside the area	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	72

Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	8
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	3
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	1
Licences issued to retail T.T. (Pasteurised) milk	5

The somewhat stringent requirements of the new legislation have been well met by the small retailers remaining under the direct control of the local authority and it is to be hoped that the Regulations will be similarly enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture in respect of producer-retailers under their jurisdiction:—

New dairies built	3
Dairies improved	1

MILK SAMPLING

There are no pasteurising plants in the area. The policy of the department has been to carry out the routine sampling of milk as delivered to the public and to submit such samples as are appropriate for biological examination for tuberculosis and *Brucella abortus*. The department also undertakes the routine sampling of school milks on behalf of the County Medical Officer. The following table shows a summary of the results obtained:—

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1950

Category	Samples taken for Bacteriological Tests	Number Passing Prescribed Tests	Number Failing	Number submitted to Biological Test	Number found Positive	
					T.B.	B.A.
Tuberculin Tested	12	10	2	9	—	1
T.T.						
Pasteurised	5	5	—	—	—	—
Accredited	5	4	1	6	—	1
Pasteurised	31	31	—	1	—	—
Channel Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded	24	21	3	39	—	—
Totals	77	71	6	55	—	2

The above figures show considerable improvement on those for 1949. Only 7 per cent of the samples taken failed to comply with the required bacteriological standards at the time of sale to the public. Although 55 samples were submitted to biological examination no tuberculosis was revealed and only 2 cases of *Brucella abortus*. In both these cases the milk was subsequently heat treated. Good liaison is maintained with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry's Animal Health Division so as to ensure that sampling for biological examination is carried out to the best advantage. The work has been somewhat restricted by the shortage of guinea pigs in May, June, and July.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on Register	23
Inspections recorded	73

These premises are mainly small family concerns where little labour is employed. The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are complied with. Owing to the high cost and scarcity of labour in this trade the tendency has been to mechanise the various processes as far as possible, thereby eliminating all unnecessary handling of foodstuffs. In fact, there would appear to have been more marked improvement in this trade than in any other during recent years and the standard of premises in the area is very good. Three very old premises remain to be dealt with and plans are in hand for the modernisation of one. One bakehouse was substantially rebuilt during the year, including the raising of the ceiling. In addition the following improvements have been recorded:—

Bakehouses extended or improved	5
Improved washing facilities	3
New drainage	2
New machinery, dough mixers, moulding machines, etc. ...	3
Premises redecorated	1

One small village bakery has already installed a bread slicing and wrapping machine.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (*Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938*):—

	Totals	Visits Paid
Total number on Register (31-12-51) ...	95	230
Manufacturers of sausages, etc. ...	25	69
Fish fryers	9	21
Sale only of ice cream	61	140

The majority of these premises have been brought up to the required standard since 1946 with the full co-operation of the traders concerned and particular attention has been given to the provision of adequate washing facilities. It is gratifying to record that once again no case of food poisoning was notified during the year. As a result of informal action the following improvements were effected during the year:—

SAUSAGE MAKING PREMISES—

Structural improvements	3
New drainage and closet accommodation	1
Premises redecorated	1

FISH FRYING SHOPS—

New premises built	2
---------------------------	---

ICE CREAM PREMISES—

Structural alterations	3
New drainage	1
Improved washing facilities	5
Premises redecorated	7
Water laid on	3
Vehicles improved	1

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream but the number of premises registered for its sale continues to increase, brought about by the convenience of the prepacked article which is very largely superseding the sale of loose ice cream. Registration is only granted in cases where the requirements of the Act are complied with and particular attention is paid to the adequacy of the washing facilities. No formal action was necessary during the year under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The following table shows the results of sampling during the year:—

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FROM RETAILERS IN 1950—

Total samples taken	22
Samples in Category 1	8
Samples in Category 2	8
Samples in Category 3	3
Samples in Category 4	3

These results show a marked improvement on those for 1949 as 16 out of 22 samples (73 per cent) fell within Categories 1 and 2 and only 6 (27 per cent) were in Categories 3 and 4. It is to be regretted that there is still no statutory standard of bacteriological cleanliness although the methylene blue test, if interpreted intelligently, affords a good indication and quickly reveals any fault in production, storage or handling.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES, AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES—

Recorded visits during the year were as follows:—

Butchers' shops	99
Cafes and restaurants	188
Other food stores, N.A.A.F.I.s, etc.	5
Retail dairies	72
Miscellaneous visits to food shops	90

The hygiene of catering and food premises continues to form one of the most important phases of the department's work. The adoption of the new Ministry of Food Byelaws, and the good progress made with the distribution of piped water supplies throughout the area will be of material assistance in this connection. The strengthening of public opinion and the increasing interest and co-operation of the trade and employees has resulted in a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the premises within the area.

Until recently, an informal arrangement existed whereby the local food office informed the public health department of applications for catering licences thereby enabling officers of the department to give advice concerning the premises proposed to be used. This liaison has not been so close of late and is much regretted since it enabled the officers to do very useful work in ensuring that proposed catering premises were satisfactory before they came into operation.

CATERING LICENCES IN FORCE—

Cafes and restaurants (full catering licences)	...	...	15
Cafes (snack licences only)	...	...	4
Public houses (full catering licences)	...	...	8
Public houses (snack licences only)	...	...	78
Clubs, etc., with full catering licences	...	...	6
Clubs (teas and snacks only)	...	...	31
Residential establishments (full catering licences)	...	...	7
Factory canteens (full catering licences)	...	...	11
School canteens (full catering licences)	...	...	14
Total licences in force	...	...	174

As a result of informal action the following improvements have been effected during the year:—

New premises built	...	...	...	3
Premises improved or extended	...	...	...	7
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	4
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	9
Additional equipment provided	...	...	...	4

CATERING PREMISES—

New cafes built	...	...	...	...	2
Restaurant kitchens improved	...	...	...	...	4
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	6
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	5
Water laid on or improved	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage improved	...	...	...	...	3
Redecoration and general repairs	...	...	...	...	19

LICENSED PREMISES:—

The department's comprehensive survey and action taken in 1946 is now bearing fruit and noticeable improvement has been effected in the general standard of these premises. In fact the completion of this work is only limited by the somewhat difficult licensing position. One brewery owning some 39 houses in the area (many of which were of the poorer type) has been taken over by a large concern and the work of modernising and improving the old houses is proceeding rapidly. Attention has always been directed towards the provision of adequate and hygienic sanitary accommodation for the public and proper glass washing facilities including a supply of constant hot water. This course is now being facilitated by the stricter attitude of the Licensing Justices and the higher standard demanded by the public. The brewers have co-operated well,

and the few remaining sub-standard premises will no doubt be replaced with new buildings when licensing restrictions permit. The following work has been recorded during the year:—

Premises completely reconditioned	...	...	...	...	8
New drainage accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	6
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
New drainage installed or improved	...	...	...	...	8
Mains water laid on	...	...	...	...	12
Glass washing facilities improved (geysers installed, etc.)	...	...	...	...	7
General repairs	...	...	...	...	9
Redecoration (internally and externally)	...	...	...	...	32
Total visits recorded during the year	...	...	...	...	131

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:—

Meat for the whole district continues to be supplied from Government slaughter houses and depots in Cambridge and the manner in which the meat is transported is gradually being improved. No real cause for complaint in this respect arose during the year in spite of the long distances to be travelled in some cases.

The meat, especially imported, has often been of poor quality although little disease has been met with. Most of the meat condemned has been heated or bruised during slaughter or transit and little has escaped the vigilance of the City Inspectors. One or two casualty animals were slaughtered in the district and were subject to full examination before being transferred for allocation.

Twelve private slaughter houses continue to be licensed for the slaughter of privately owned pigs under permit, and routine inspection is carried out wherever possible. Owners are advised where disease is encountered and no difficulty has been experienced in securing the disposal of any affected meat.

The slaughter house licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption has continued in use although on a reduced scale (74 horses were killed as against 205 in 1949). One carcase was condemned (emaciation and nephritis) and approximately 678 lbs. of offals (mainly parasitic infections). Difficulty has again been experienced in securing adequate control over this trade since the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, do not apply to horse flesh.

Visits to slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	...	86
Visits to butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	99
Slaughter houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933:—

Licences to slaughter renewed, 1950	...	...	...	...	28
New licences issued	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total on Register, 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	28

All animals are humanely slaughtered on licensed premises in the area and no necessity for action arose during the year. To facilitate

complete control in this respect, the slaughtering of animals on any premises other than a licensed slaughter house should be prohibited by the Ministry of Food.

UN SOUND FOOD-STUFFS:—

The majority of food-stuffs have already been inspected prior to entry into the District and only small amounts of unfit food are revealed as a result of routine inspections. Mostly the food condemned was as a result of loss of condition, or deterioration due to transit or storage. Little disease was met with in meat—the main troubles being severe bruising and heating of the carcase—conditions not always apparent at the time of initial inspection at the slaughter house. Better facilities exist in the various trades for the replacement of suspected stock and the goods returned are dealt with in the area of the wholesalers or manufacturers.

Considerable investigations were carried out during the Summer with regard to the alleged contamination of garden produce grown in the vicinity of chemical works. The contaminant was considered to be chlor-cresol disseminated in the atmosphere and samples were submitted to the Government Laboratories and opinion sought from the British Medical Research Council. No evidence could be obtained that the consumption of the produce might give rise to toxic effects and the final opinion was that the articles were tainted only, and not harmful.

The following is an abridged summary of the food-stuffs condemned:—

HOME-KILLED MEAT—

Beef	2 whole carcasses and offal	
	1 forequarter	
	Miscellaneous	108 lb.
Pork	1 carcase and all offal	
	Leg	37 lb.
	Miscellaneous	18 lb.
Horse-meat (for human consumption)	One carcase and all offal	
	Miscellaneous (mostly offal)	678 lb.

IMPORTED MEAT—

Beef	Forequarter	46 lb.
Mutton	Legs	43 lb.
	Miscellaneous	26 lb.

POULTRY—

Chickens	19
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RATIONED GOODS—

Bacon	14 lb.
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TINNED GOODS—

Milk	1 tin
Meat	108 tins
Fish	2 tins
Fruit	8 tins
Paste	17 jars
Vegetables	3 tins

FACTORIES:—

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Number of factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Notifications of outworkers received	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

As a result of action taken by the department the following improvements have been recorded during the year:—

New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New drainage installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Premises extended or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Improved working accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improved heating	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The majority of registered premises are small undertakings employing few persons. The department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

